

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Chief Google economist talks on data, statistics, and Google tools

Lecture focuses on using Google Trends, Correlate, Surveys



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
Google Chief Economist, Hal Varian.

By Anthony Yu
STAFF REPORTER

Yesterday afternoon, the Undergraduate Economics Association hosted a lecture by Google's Chief Economist, Hal R. Varian '69, on "Predicting the Present with Search Engine Data."

Hal Varian, an MIT alum, taught at UC Berkeley for several decades before becoming Google's Chief Economist in 2010. He is one of the several influential voices in the emerging field of big data, particularly noted for saying in *The McKinsey Quarterly* that being a statistician would be "the sexy job" in the next decade. I thought attending the lecture would be a great opportunity for me as an economics student.

I arrived at the lecture hall about 10 minutes early, not expecting to see a giant crowd. However, by the time 4:30 rolled around, E51-345 had filled its capacity of 128 with standing room only. Although billed as an undergraduate event, it was clear that most attend-

ees were graduate students eager to learn more about applying "big data" to business. The lecture began with quick remarks from UEA President, Ting Mao '14 and a glowing introduction of Varian by economics lecturer Sara F. Ellison, who credited him for inspiring a new generation of information economists.

Varian's lecture focused on three Google Tools: Trends, Correlate, and Consumer Surveys. He began with light-hearted set of questions: "What day in the week receives the most searches about hangovers?" Apparently, searches about hangovers peak every Sunday with an outlier on Jan. 1, eliciting guilty chuckles from the audience. This laughter was even more pronounced when Varian highlighted that searches about vodka peak a day before searches about hangovers. He presented other statistics, including the peak in the search term "civil war"

Varian, Page 11

UA elections coming up next week!

Undergraduate Association election week begins at 9 a.m. on Monday, March 18, and students can vote online at vote.mit.edu until 11:59 p.m. Friday, March 23.

The Spring 2013 UA elections will fill the 2013-2014 UA President/Vice President positions and the Class Councils for each class. There are two tickets running for UAP/VP this year: Cory D. Hernandez '14/John Kongoletos '14 and Sidhanth P. Rao '14/Devin T. Cornish '14.

According to their platforms, Hernandez/Kongoletos — who have both had experience within the UA — cite "[restoring] trust in the UA" as their mission, saying that the UA is meant to be "an entity that provides a voice to undergraduates." Their vision includes recruitment and student engagement, and ensuring UA accountability based on those sources of input.

On the other hand, Rao/Cornish are marketing themselves as UA outsiders, indicating that "the sole function of the UA" is to ensure the success and happiness of every MIT student. Along those lines, they've broken their vision down into mutual support in the MIT community, student center renovations, and undergraduate education.

The Tech and the UA are co-hosting the annual UAP/VP debate at 7 p.m. this Thursday, March 14, on the first floor of the student center.

Platforms of the candidates running for UA President/Vice President and the Class Councils can be seen online at <http://elections.scripts.mit.edu/candidates/>. Check back in Friday's issue of *The Tech* for coverage on the UAP/VP debate and in-depth interviews with the candidates.

—Anne Cai

US Attorney General questioned on Swartz

U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder was questioned by Senator John Cornyn (R-Texas) last week over the prosecution of Aaron Swartz. At a Senate Judiciary Committee oversight hearing, Cornyn asserted that the penalties Swartz faced for mass downloading JSTOR articles via MIT's network were disproportionate to the magnitude of the crime.

"He was charged with crimes that would have carried a penalty of up to 35 years in prison and a million dollar fine. A superseding indictment which was filed would have upped both the prison time and the fines. I wrote a letter asking about that prosecution and raising questions of prosecutorial

zeal and, I would say, even misconduct," said Cornyn.

But Holder said Swartz was never really facing 35 years in prison and that three to six months was much more likely.

"[The] news reports about what he was facing was not consistent with what the interaction was between the government and Mr. Swartz," said Holder, who added that plea offers were made before and after the indictment, carrying penalties of at most six months.

"There was never an intention for him to go to jail for longer than

Swartz, Page 12



VANESSA TREVINO

Samuel P. Heilbroner '13 performs a solo on the alto saxophone. The MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble, directed by Frederick Harris, celebrated its 50th anniversary of Jazz at MIT with "Homegrown for 50 Years!" on Friday, March 8, 2013.

News Briefs

Racy wristbands

"That's a nice dress. It would look great on my floor."

At a "South by Southwest" party hosted by the MIT Media Lab in Austin, Texas this past Saturday, wristbands were distributed to party attendees with a variety of flirtatious messages.

"Do you wash your clothes with Windex? Cause I can see myself in your pants," said another.

The wristbands were apparently controversial, inciting the Media Lab to apologize on its blog yesterday. "They were offensive and in no way reflect the sentiments of the MIT Media Lab," read the blog post. "We don't like — and certainly don't want to support or disseminate — offensive messag-

ing. We appreciate those of you who noticed the wristbands and pointed them out to us; please accept our sincere apology."

The blog post mentions that the wristbands were distributed by the venue (The Parish Underground) and the organizers did not know about them beforehand.

SXSW is an entertainment and interactive technology conference that's held in Austin every year. It is a collaboration between the Media Lab, Knight Foundation, and Mozilla.

Ed Boyden wins brain prize

Ed Boyden, an associate professor

Prizes, Page 12

WHY ARE HUMANS SPECIAL?

Ask A-Theist, *The Tech's* new column on worldviews.
CAMPUS LIFE, p. 10

SECRET LIFE OF RESEARCHERS

On the suspense of doing literature reviews. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 10**

EVALUATING 8.02X AND 8.02

On rigor and assessing the edX version of 8.02. **LETTERS, p. 4**



MIT-WELLESLEY RELAY FOR LIFE

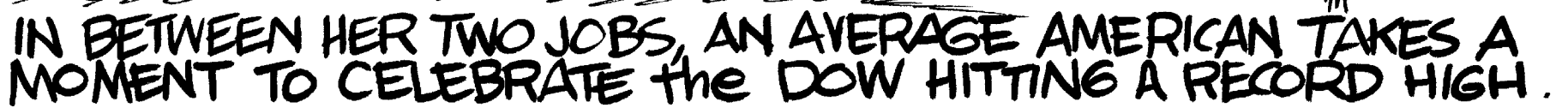
See photos from this weekend's Relay For Life event.
PHOTO, p. 11

AN EMPHASIS ON STEM

High schools need to encourage students to continue in STEM fields. **OPINION, p. 4**

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Sports 16



The Tech will be running a survey about dining at MIT soon. Send suggestions or topics you want covered to *dining@tt.mit.edu*.

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

- [illegible]

- [illegible]

[illegible]

- [illegible]

- [illegible]



- [illegible]

- [illegible]

Least Action Principle

by Amanda Aparicio



This is why I could never write a love story.



PAGE 12



by Jorge Cham



WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

Sudoku

Solution, page 12

	8				4	9		1
	7			1		5		
	1					4	3	
1	4		2					6
			3		1			
8					6		9	7
	6	7					4	
		1		3			8	
2		8	7				1	

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Techdoku

Solution, page 12

2-		4x	6x		10x
12x			60x		
3		2		24x	
10+	20+		12+		
			12x		12x
5x					

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.



TAMI FORRESTER—THE TECH

Jeanne M. Yu '13 performs with Syncopasian, one of MIT's co-ed a cappella groups Saturday evening.



TAMI FORRESTER—THE TECH

Students in ADT, the Asian Dance Team, perform a traditional Chinese dance.



TAMI FORRESTER—THE TECH

Royal K. Morris '15 performs with the MIT Chorallaries.

RELAY FOR LIFE

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is an overnight fundraising event that brings together 3.5 million people across the country, to raise cancer awareness and funds for research, advocacy efforts, education, and patient service programs. It serves as a celebration for cancer survivors, a memorial for loved ones lost, and a community rally to fight cancer. The MIT-Wellesley Relay for Life took place this Saturday at Johnson Track from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Sunday morning, with team activities and performances by MIT and Wellesley student groups, as well as a celebration of those affected by cancer — survivors, caretakers, friends, family, and individuals currently fighting the disease.



TAMI FORRESTER—THE TECH

One of the many fundraising booths at the Relay for Life event.



TAMI FORRESTER—THE TECH

Participants in Relay for Life warm up for the group Zumba exercise Saturday evening on Johnson Track. The event ran from 6 p.m. Saturday evening to 6 a.m. Sunday morning. For more photos.



TAMI FORRESTER—THE TECH

Members of Mocha Moves perform during the Relay event on Johnson Track.



TAMI FORRESTER—THE TECH

Relay participants dance in a group Zumba exercise, one of the team activities that occurred during the night.

As suspenseful and terrifying as reading a horror novel

Imagine this: you have a brilliant idea, a question that no one has ever dared asked, a new way to study the cosmos, a groundbreaking theory.

Enter the literature review. Literature reviews are both exciting and terrifying. Science is all about building on the shoulders of giants, so figuring out how and what the great minds before you did can be exhilarating. I always learn so much in the process and think about new ways to approach problems. Sometimes I find an easier way to approach something or an idea for a better question to ask. The literature

However, once I have my heart set on a question — and the fact that I am going to be the one to solve it — it can become a scary process too. Searching the literature can lead to great stuff — stuff that suggests why my question is important, stuff that helps push my work forward — but it can also lead to uncovering stuff that suggests your question has already been answered or your method is deeply flawed (there is a PhD Comic that describes the sinking moment when you've found out someone has already done your thesis — <http://www.phdcomics.com/comics.php?f=1506>).

ed innocently. I wanted to find out how to measure the volume of complicated planktonic shapes. I read through paper after paper, tried new search terms, looked through journals far outside my comfort zone, and came up with zilch. After a while, I decided to start working on a solution myself. At first, it was half and half — I worked on my own solution and checked back in the meantime to see if there was an off-the-shelf solution I had missed somehow. However, as time passed, I spent more time on my solution and became more invested and excited about my approach. And overnight, searching the literature took on this new pallor; I was at once desperately trying to find the paper that already did it, but secretly hoping against hope that it didn't exist.

So, the moral of the story is — when you see a graduate student reading papers and looking sad — try to be sympathetic. It's much more difficult than it looks!

Why are humans so special?

If they exist, why aren't other intelligent life forms special too?

Ask A-theist is a new column by Aaron Scheinberg, an atheist, and Stephanie Lam, a Christian, which uses contrasting worldviews to explore questions and misconceptions about philosophy and religion. This week, Stephanie chose a question from your lovely submissions. Send us the burning questions you have always wanted answered by an atheist or Christian (or both), and we'll tackle them!

Q: Why are humans so special? If there are other intelligent life forms or conscious beings in the universe, why aren't they special, too?

Every worldview has a starting point — how you view the creation of this world will influence where you assign “special” status.

In the Christian worldview, God created the world, the plants, the animals, everything. But humans, especially, were created in His own image. That is what makes humans so special, not their intelligence, consciousness, morality, creativity, or any other quality we often point to as unique to being human. Rather than a mark of superiority, these are reflections of the good character of the creator God. In other words, humans did nothing to earn this special standing before God, they were made that way. It was something God bestowed in his sovereignty to all humans, even unlikely ones.

If they existed, aliens would only be alien to us. God is the creator of the entire universe. Alien intelligence might be a clue that God has stamped his image on the species, but ultimately it is the species' relationship to the creator, not external traits alone, that make it "special". Regardless, from what God has made known to us, he loves, values and provides for all his creations, special or not. As his image-bearers, humans are accountable to God to do likewise, treating all his species with the highest dignity and respect.

Do we really decide which life forms we value as “special” by looking at the creation of the world, as Stephanie says?

In practice, we all determine our relationships with other life forms in the same way. By interacting with them, be they aliens, chickens, or Bostonians, we come to understand them. From there, we appreciate and value them, and hopefully diminish our egotistical sense of specialness.

If humans are special because a creation myth tells us so, I am concerned. Stephanie says that being made in Yahweh's image doesn't refer to intelligence, consciousness, or any other physically manifesting trait. All we supposedly know is that humans have it and animals don't.

There is a danger of complacency when crediting our values to an unchanging book. When we do meet extraterrestrials, will we use our biblical mark of specialness, our homo sapiency, to determine that we are to be more valued than them? Perhaps that we should have “dominion” over them, as we’re told we inherently deserve over other animals? Burn them as offerings, the way Yahweh traditionally loves his animals? (It’s tough love.)

Or, just as we strive against racism, will we allow experience, reason, and understanding to overcome our prejudice and expand our conception of who is “special”?

TUESDAY

(4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.) From memory to inspiration: A remembrance of Aaron Swartz — E14-674

(9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) Irish Fest — Student Center Lobby

(5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.) Innovation Series Event: Big Ideas, Big Solutions — How can we solve more big problems? — 32-123

(4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.) *The Soul of Anime* book launch with author Ian Condry — E51-149

(6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.) Beyond the 3/11 Tohoku disaster
— talks and reception (RSVP at <http://goo.gl/DeTUJ>) —
W20-407

(11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.) Johnny Cupcakes@MIT: Retail Entrepreneurship & Building a Cult Brand — E62-262

(7:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m.) LSC shows *Beasts of the Southern Wild* — 26-100

(8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) Roadkill Buffet Presents: The Sequester Cut The Pope's Budget By One Pope — 6-120

(7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.) Edgerton Ides of March Party
Roman themed — NW-10

(8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.) MIT Wind Ensemble Concert
with Don Byron — Kresge Auditorium

(4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.) Pianist Yukiko Sekino in recital —
14W-111

(6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) MIT Muslim Student's Association
goodwill baking — McCormick Country Kitchen

Send your campus events to *events@tech.mit.edu*.



Write about it!

Join Campus Life @ The Tech!

E-mail join@tech.mit.edu

```
File Edit Options Buffers Tools Im-Python Python Help
from new_skills import *
def learnMarketableJobSkills():
    return linux, OSX, javascript, applescript, perl, python, PHP
if self.interest == True:
    print "E-mail join@tech.mit.edu"
-----F1 joinTechno.py (Python)--L1--Top-----
```


Correlations from consumer sentiment and trends

Varian talks about making predictions using data from search queries, consumer surveys

Varian, from Page 1

which generally peaks “three days before the term paper is due.” Once the audience was thoroughly entertained, he transitioned to a more practical application of Google Tools. Varian showed that queries about unemployment claims are a good indicator of the unemployment rate and when a recession begins and ends. Google’s large data set from searches allows people to build better predictive models that take into account the relationships between different variables. With a linear model, it is “hard to catch the turning point,” but with Google’s detailed search data, more accurate regressions can be drawn. In addition, Varian highlighted

how easy it is to collect data with Google Consumer Surveys, noting that he started a consumer survey before dinner about the minimum wage, and after dessert, there were about 700 responses. He claimed that the next best alternative to

The next best alternative to an online survey would be 40 times more expensive.

running an online survey would be roughly 40 times more expensive. In addition, with Google’s survey tools, one can see how word changes in the phrasing of questions affect responses. With


these data easily accessible, it “democratizes the whole profession” and has large implications for both businesses and social sciences. My favorite part of his lecture was when he briefly touched upon how the consumer sentiment, a survey very helpful to economists during the past recession, could be better interpreted. Varian said, “As economists, we don’t quite know what the best correlates will be. It’s not obvious.” Indeed, the consumer sentiment survey contained “fat data” which has many predictors but few observations. Varian showed how Google’s private data on queries related to financial planning, investing, business news, utilities, and search engines helped make more sense of the raw data of consumer sentiment. It was amazing to see the

regression line on each successive lecture slide became better fitted towards the data points as Google’s search data was added. With more data, better predictive models can be built.

With more data, better predictive models can be built.

After 40 minutes speaking, Varian wrapped up his presentation by concluding that “the challenge that is facing the economics profession is how do we combine public and private data in a useful way.” Needless to say, most of the attendees were sold on his presentation about big data. For the last 20 minutes, Varian took questions. Most of the ques-

tions that were raised concerned the possibilities of big data and the “how” behind Google’s business. Some even inquired about the prices that Google charges to use its tools. I eventually got up the courage to ask whether or not there was a particular set of data he particularly enjoyed researching. Varian simply couldn’t decide, stating “there’s a lot of things you can look at that are both interesting and instructive.” He suggested that he thought looking at trends across countries was a more intriguing topic. The lecture was a great opportunity for students interested in economics, information, and business. His presentation highlighted the bright future of big data and illuminated what it means to be better at forecasting the future.




MacVicar Day 2013

**REIMAGINING THE MIT CLASSROOM:
EXPERIMENTS WITH DIGITAL LEARNING**

Friday, March 15, 2013, Bartos Theater, E15-070

Symposium: 2:00 – 4:00 PM
Reception: 4:00 – 5:00 PM

Sponsored by The MacVicar Faculty Fellows Program and the Office of Faculty Support



The UA Presidential / Vice Presidential Debate

Cory Hernandez
&
John Kongoletos

vs

Sidhanth Rao
&
Devin Cornish

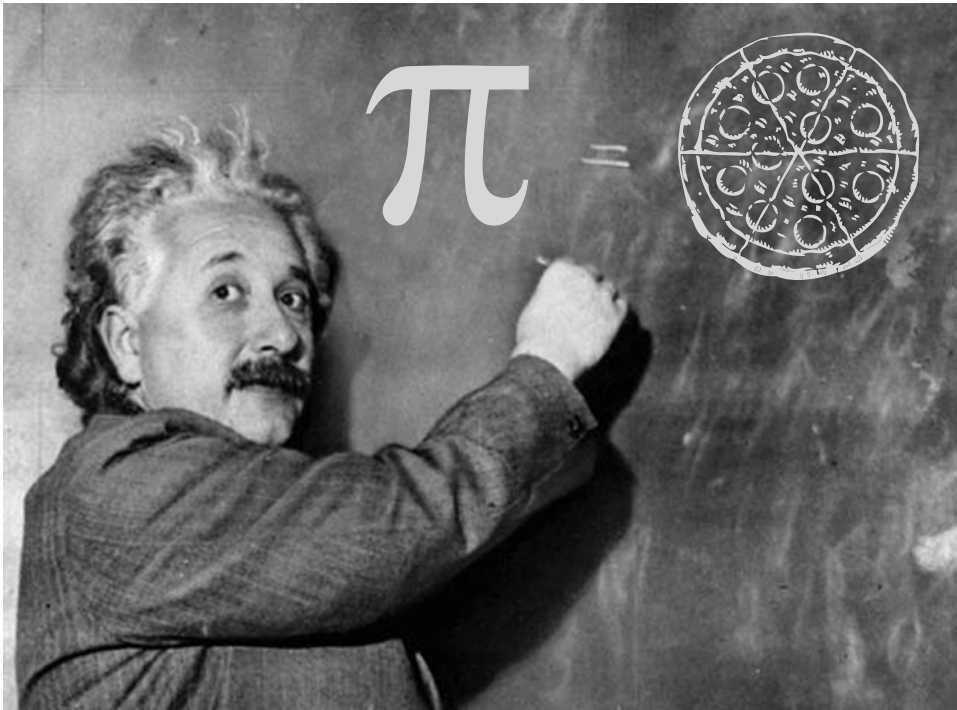
7 p.m. Thursday, March 14
Student Center, First Floor

Hosted by The Tech and the Undergraduate Association

Celebrate PI DAY at the MIT Coop



with free Pizza Pie



3.14

11:00am to 1:59pm



Free Pi Day Giveaways! Free Pizza Pie starting at noon!
Pi Day merchandise on sale!

Swartz investigation updates

Swartz, from Page 1

a three, four, potentially five month range. That is what the government said specifically to Mr. Swartz. Those offers were rejected.”

Cornyn did not give up, pressing Holder further: “Does it strike you as odd that the government would indict someone for crimes that would carry penalties for up to 35 years in prison and million dollar fines, and then offer him a three of four month prison sentence?”

“No, I don’t look at what necessarily was charged as much as what was offered in terms of how the case might’ve been re-

solved,” replied Holder.

In January, Swartz lawyer Elliot Peters told the *Boston Globe* that the six-month plea deal was rejected because he and Swartz wanted a trial where prosecutors would have to publicly justify the charges.

MIT has been staying silent on the Swartz prosecution, pending the completion of Prof. Hal Abelson PhD ’73’s analysis of the Institute’s involvement in the situation, which started when Swartz first began downloading JSTOR articles in September 2010. Swartz committed suicide in New York City on Jan. 11.

—Ethan A. Solomon

Innovation in surgery, optogenetics

Prizes, from Page 1

in brain and cognitive sciences and the Media Lab, won the 2013 Grete Lundbeck European Brain Research Prize yesterday. The award is one million Euros.

The prize is given by the Lundbeck Foundation of Denmark for outstanding brain research.

Boyden received his work for pioneering optogenetics, a technology he developed to control brain activity using light.

Lemelson Prize

Nikolai Begg, a PhD student in Mechanical Engineering, just won the Lemelson-MIT student prize for his work making surgical procedures less invasive. He will receive \$30,000 to continue

his work in “puncture access procedures.”

Many minimally invasive surgeries begin with a small puncture made by the surgeon. Despite these incisions being minimal, they often plunge through more tissue than needed — a result of the surgeon’s human reaction time. Begg has invented a force-sensing device with a blade that retracts within 1/100 of a second after passing through skin tissue. This creation minimizes damage, and can scale to a variety of medical puncture devices.

Begg shares the Lemelson-MIT Collegiate Student Prize with two students from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, respectively.

—Jessica J. Pourian



MIT-ISN /Army Labs 2013

Student Summer Internship Program



Earn up to \$2864/month this summer!*

Program Summary MIT undergraduate students conduct scientific and engineering research at Army Science and Technology Centers under the direction of Army Scientists, from June to August. The Army host and student determine the exact starting and finishing dates.

- Professional Benefits**
- Gain valuable research experience
 - Build new professional relationships
 - Access world-class research facilities
 - Contribute to a team that is providing new, life-saving technologies

- Disciplines of Interest and Project Content**
- Most areas of science and engineering
 - The Army Lab Host determines the project content and subject matter. The projects can involve basic research, applied research, or both and do not need to be related to the ISN mission or to nanotechnology

To view internship opportunities and learn more about this program, please register at the website:

<https://isn.mit.edu/internship/index.php>

If you have questions about this program, or experience difficulty using the website, please contact Marlisha McDaniels, at the ISN: mmcd@mit.edu, 617.324.4700.

*The Army Lab provides the intern’s salary, which typically ranges from \$2280/month to \$2864/month depending on class year. Under certain circumstances the ISN can provide the intern with a supplement of up to \$1500 to defray costs of local accommodations and travel.

The mission of the MIT Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies is to dramatically improve the protection and survivability of the Soldier and first responder through basic research and collaboration with the Army and industry.

Solution to Sudoku

from page 7

3	8	2	5	6	4	9	7	1
9	7	4	8	1	3	5	6	2
6	1	5	9	2	7	4	3	8
1	4	9	2	7	8	3	5	6
7	5	6	3	9	1	8	2	4
8	2	3	4	5	6	1	9	7
5	6	7	1	8	9	2	4	3
4	9	1	6	3	2	7	8	5
2	3	8	7	4	5	6	1	9

Solution to Techdoku

from page 7

5	3	4	1	6	2
2	6	1	4	3	5
3	1	2	5	4	6
4	2	3	6	5	1
6	4	5	2	1	3
1	5	6	3	2	4

SMBC, from Page 7



Solution to Crossword

from page 6

C	A	S	H	E	S		C	A	N	A	D	A	
R	O	T	H	I	R	A		H	O	A	X	I	N
A	R	T	I	S	A	N		A	L	B	E	R	T
B	R	A	N				F	Y	I		S	T	I
B	I	B		S	C	R	A	T	C	H		B	O
I	D	O		C	H	A	P	E	A	U		A	C
S	A	Y	W	H	E	N		A	T	N	I	G	H
			W	E	E					E	G	O	
S	Q	U	I	R	T	S		F	R	A	U	G	H
P	U	N		Z	A	P	P	I	E	R		E	A
A	I	L		O	H	E	N	R	Y		R	U	B
C	Z	A	R				E	W	E			M	I
E	N	T	I	C	E	R		S	T	P	E	T	E
S	O	C	I	O	S	E			S	U	I	T	O
	S	H	E	E	T	S			E	X	P	E	L

Three females attending summer courses at MIT want to rent a furnished apartment in Cambridge

from June 29th to August 3rd.

If you have anything, contact us:

mariauzermeno@hotmail.com

Harvard comments on search of email accounts

By Richard Perez-Pena and Jess Bidgood
THE NEW YORK TIMES

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Harvard University and its president on Monday made their first public comments on the university’s searching of staff members’ email accounts, and offered a qualified apology for keeping the searches secret from most of the employees involved.

The episode has angered faculty members and refocused attention on Harvard’s largest cheating scandal in memory, which involved a take-home final exam in a government class last spring. After an investigation, about 70 students were forced to take a leave of absence.

In September, when confidential information about cheating cases appeared in news reports, administrators ordered searches of the email accounts of 16 resident deans, to find the source of the leaks.

In an online statement posted Monday morning, university officials acknowledged the searches and explained their reasoning. The statement eased the concerns of some faculty members but did not alleviate them completely, and professors said they expected that email privacy would be the topic of a full-throated discussion at the

next faculty meeting, in early April.

In her first comment on the matter, Harvard’s president, Drew Gilpin Faust, said that she did not know about the searches at the time, but that having been apprised, “I feel very comfortable that great care was taken to safeguard the privacy of all concerned.”

Hart and other professors said the searches would prompt them to conduct more business through private email accounts.

Faculty responses revealed a gap between expectations in academia, where privacy is often seen as integral to academic freedom, and the corporate world, in which employees are often told to assume that workplace emails are not private. Some professors wondered aloud whether they had been naïve to think that things would be different at a university, and said they were forced to re-examine assumptions about confidentiality.

“It’s disturbing because I don’t know what it means about whether they could look at my own email,” said Oliver Hart, an economics professor. “We need to have a discussion and a better understanding of the policy.”

He and other professors said the searches would prompt them

to conduct more business through private email accounts outside of Harvard’s reach.

Most professors who agreed to discuss the matter on Monday insisted on anonymity, not wanting to run afoul of the administration. Several of them, conceding that the university had a legal right to con-

duct the searches, said the problem was, as one put it, that “we never thought they would — we never thought about it at all, and we probably should have.”

One leak last year involved an email from the university’s Administrative Board to resident deans, offering guidance on how to advise students accused of cheating. Some have questioned why such a minor breach prompted an investigation.

But the statement posted Monday, attributed to Michael D. Smith, dean of the faculty of arts and sciences, and Evelyn M. Hammonds, dean of Harvard College, said administrators were more troubled by another leak, recounting closed-door discussions by the Administrative Board.

“The disclosure of the docu-

ment and nearly word-for-word disclosure of a confidential board conversation led to concerns that other information — especially student information we have a duty to protect as private — was at risk,” the deans wrote.

Resident deans live among students in Harvard’s residential houses and act as student advisers, and they are also lecturers, meaning that they teach courses but are not on a tenure track to professorship. Each one generally has a personal Harvard email account and one specifically for the job of resident dean.

The deans’ statement on Monday emphasized that the search was conducted only of the resident dean accounts, not personal ones, and only for the subject line on each message, to determine whether the confidential email had been forwarded.

The search determined that one resident dean had forwarded the email to two students who were accused of cheating and had sought the dean’s advice.

Hammonds and Smith wrote that the resident dean who had forwarded the messages did so in good faith and was not punished. The statement did not say whether administrators determined how the email found its way to the news media, or who was responsible for

the other leak, of the Administrative Board’s deliberations.

That resident dean and one other were told about the email searches shortly after they took place, administrators said, but the other 14 resident deans were not told until last week, after The Boston Globe inquired about the matter.

They were not told to protect “the privacy of the resident dean who had made an inadvertent error,” Hammonds and Smith wrote. “We understand that others may see the situation differently, and we apologize if any resident deans feel our communication at the conclusion of the investigation was insufficient.”


On his blog, Michael Mitzenmacher, a computer science professor, wrote that he was satisfied with some parts of the administration’s explanation, but “in my opinion, the administration made an error in judgment” in not telling the resident deans of the search.

Wilfried Schmid, a mathematics professor, said he still wanted to know more about what happened. “I certainly get the sense that many of my colleagues will be upset, and so there will be a discussion,” he said.

But he urged the faculty not to lose sight of what he considered the bigger issue, the cheating episode itself.


T-SHIRTS

...a necessary fact of College!



- Deal direct...no middlemen
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Dr. Carol W. Greider

Telomeres and Telomerase: *Past, Present and Future*

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Lecture *For Undergraduates*

March 15th

2013

Friday
4–5 pm, 76-156
Koch Auditorium

Telomeres are essential functional components of chromosomes; they protect chromosome ends from recombination and from being recognized as DNA damage. Telomeres shorten with each cell division due to the end replication problem, but are then elongated by the unique DNA polymerase called telomerase. This shortening and lengthening establishes a telomere length equilibrium that is essential for cells to maintain. All cells that undergo many cell divisions have to solve the telomere shortening problem, thus telomerase is required for the extensive cell divisions that occur in cancer cells and in tissue-specific stem cells. Mice that are null for telomerase are initially viable yet they show progressive telomere shortening with progressive generations of inter-breeding. These mice are excellent models to understand human diseases caused by telomere shortening. To fully understand and potentially treat telomere shortening in disease, it will be essential to dissect the mechanism of telomere length equilibrium maintenance.

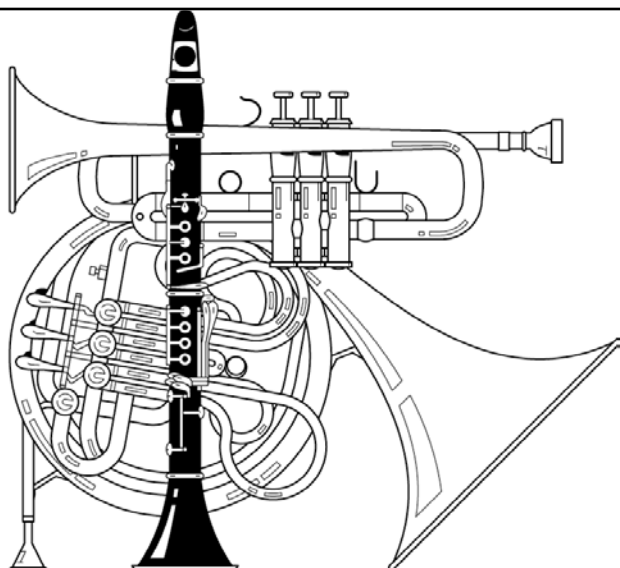
Reception to Follow. Open to undergraduates. Others welcome.



Event sponsored by the
Howard Hughes Medical Institute



Dr. Greider received her Ph.D. in 1987 from the UC Berkeley. In 1984, working together with Dr. Elizabeth Blackburn, she discovered telomerase, an enzyme that maintains telomeres, which she first isolated and characterized from the ciliate *Tetrahymena*. In 1988, Dr. Greider went to Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory where she cloned and characterized the RNA component of telomerase. There, she expanded the focus of her telomere research to include the role of telomere length in cell senescence, cell death and in cancer. In 1997, she moved her laboratory to the Dept. of Molecular Biology and Genetics at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. In 2004 she was appointed as the Daniel Nathans Professor and Director of the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics. At JHU, Dr. Greider’s group continued to study the biochemistry of telomerase and determined the secondary structure of the human telomerase RNA. She has won a number of awards for the work on telomerase, and she shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Drs. Elizabeth Blackburn and Jack Szostak in 2009.



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**4pm - “The Soul of Anime” book launch
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Cultural anthropologist and professor at MIT,
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**7pm - “Wolf Children” screening and
Q&A with director Mamoru Hosoda
Room 26-100**

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Women underrepresented at energy conference

Five percent of attendees were women, sparking discussion on industry gender disparity

By Zain Shauk
THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Suddenly, a young woman stood up to talk.

She told the breakfast audience at last week's IHS CERAWeek conference that they were losing money with old technology, that they should consider ways to use better data and cut down on costs.

Later, an executive who missed her introduction asked her if she was an intern or a marketing representative.

Allison Lami Sawyer's title is CEO. Of the roughly 30 CEOs who came to speak at the testosterone-heavy conference that closed Friday at the Hilton Americas-Houston downtown, only two were women.

It's a fact that was hard to ignore and is representative of the energy industry's largely male executive ranks.

"It's just so strange," said Sawyer, 28, CEO of leak-detection startup Rebellion Photonics. "You just never get over it."

Many attendees are simply not used to seeing women as executives in the energy industry. And that's because there are so few of them.

At a breakfast event hosted at The Grove restaurant in Discovery Green for 55 CEOs in attendance at the conference, just two were women, said Spectra Energy Partners CEO Julie Dill, who was there.

The gender disparity among conference attendees and speakers was the same, she said.

"It was really startling not to see more women on the panels and, quite frankly, when you look around the audience there are not a lot of women," Dill said.

Wrong on her status

Dill, who is 53 and spent 17 years at Shell Oil Co. before joining Spectra, said she was mistaken at the conference for an employee of lower status, something that happens frequently in the industry.

"There have been occasions where they've believed that I was the secretary," Dill said.

Sawyer said that some responsibility for the heavily male executive ranks falls on women, perhaps for not pursuing careers in the industry. And there aren't too many examples

to follow, she added.

"I think there's a problem finding mentors," Sawyer said.

But Dill described a lack of understanding at some companies of how women's family obligations can be incorporated into a high-level career.

Energy companies say they are addressing the issue and have made an effort to hire more women.

But the problem is a structure that may not be conducive to moving women into the executive ranks, Dill said, or to managing their return to the workplace after child-bearing years.

More diversity could generate innovation in the industry, said Kurt Glaubitz, a spokesman for Chevron Corp., which sponsored the IHS

CERAWeek breakfast event where Sawyer spoke.

"The example that she provided is one that demonstrates how we can help to become more efficient in our current operations as we also look over the horizon at new technologies that will foster the fuel of tomorrow," he said.

Glaubitz said Sawyer's selection for Energy Innovation Pioneers breakfast was encouraging and part of a trend of increased women's employment in energy.

"It's a testament to universities and higher education that they are better preparing women in order to take a place within management ranks of industry and we're pleased to see that trend improving," Glaubitz said.

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Statistics reported by: Wicked Local on 4/18/12




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MIT women's track and field concluded their season at the NCAA Championship

DAPER STAFF

The Engineers, who finished in 26th place last year, wrapped up the meet tied for 13th place.

In her NCAA debut, Nicole A. Zeinstra '16 came in 12th place in the prelims

Lauren B. Kuntz '13 had an impressive performance in the pole vault, claiming 2nd place.

Many of the members of the indoor team will be returning to action in two weeks for the start of the outdoor track and field season at the Jerry Gravel Invitational at Westfield State University on Saturday, March 23.

*MIT men's tennis remains undefeated
after their big win over Bates College*

DAPER STAFF

Trailing 2-1 going into singles, the Engineers soon took over the lead with Zhang's win over Bettles, 6-4, 6-2 in the top spot, followed by a well-earned win

Trailing 2-1 going into singles, the Engineers soon took over the lead with Zhang's win over Bettles, 6-4, 6-2.

MIT returns to action on Saturday, March 9 when it hosts Baruch College at 1:00 p.m.

7 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium

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